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Letter dated 30 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 25 November 1998 (A/53/720-S/1998/1136), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 24 to 27 November 1998.

On 24 November 1998, twenty-nine (29) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (19 F-16, 5 F-4, 3 KC-135 and 2 CN-235) entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations. Four of the F-16, as well as the three KC-135 exited the Nicosia FIR in a south-easterly direction. The remaining 15 F-16 and the 5 F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting afterwards in a south-easterly direction. The two CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas.

On 25 November 1998, twenty-nine (29) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (16 F-16, 8 F-4, 3 KC-135, 1 CN-235 and 1 GULFSTREAM) entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations. Eight of the F-16, four of the F-4 and the three KC-135 exited the Nicosia FIR in a south-easterly direction. The remaining eight F-16 and four F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting afterwards in a south-easterly direction. The CN-235, as well as the GULFSTREAM, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas.

On 26 November 1998, twenty-nine (29) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (20 F-16, 4 F-4, 3 KC-135, 1 CN-235 and 1 GULFSTREAM) entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations. Twelve of the F-16 and the four F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting afterwards in a south-easterly direction. The

CN-235, as well as the GULFSTREAM, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas. The remaining eight F-16, as well as the three KC-135, exited after their flight within the Nicosia FIR in a south-easterly direction.

On 27 November 1998, thirteen (13) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (10 F-16, 2 KC-135 and 1 CN-235) entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations. Six of the F-16 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting afterwards in a south-easterly direction. The CN-235 violated the National Airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas. The remaining four F-16, as well as the two KC-135 exited after their flight within the Nicosia FIR in a south-easterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. The frequency and intensity of these airspace violations are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore, these continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative